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Our Ref: JHB/AB/23844
11th September 1991

DOCKETED 6 OCT 91

Attention: Beverly A. Monroe

NOTED

RECEIVED
PHILIP MORRIS MANAGEMENT CORP.
LAW DEPT-PATENT SECTION

Dear Beverly,

SEP 16 1991

Japanese Patent Application No. 70062/81
Your Ref: PM 1088/89
Our File: 23844

NOTED

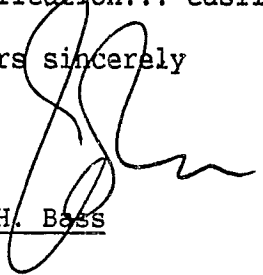
I am somewhat puzzled to have received the enclosed official action citing two new references, which is due for reply by 6th November 1991.

As reported in my last letter, this application is under appeal and has been allocated an Appeal Trial number, as is usual in Japan, but the official letter follows the usual form for an office action and makes no reference whatever to the appeal. I am seeking the advice of our Japanese associates on the status of this action but, in the meantime, I should be grateful if you would study it and the new references and let me have your comments.

A copy of the action is also being sent to Jeff Ingerman together with the two new references. I presume he will already have copies of the previous references on his file, although I can easily send further copies if necessary.

It is impossible to tell from the new action which claims are being considered by the Examiner although, as explained in my last letter, claims 1 and 13 were amended at the time of filing the appeal. The action takes the usual Japanese form of excessive generality, merely citing the references as making "this application... easily thought of by those skilled in the art".

Yours sincerely


J. H. Bass

c.c. Jeffrey H. Ingerman (Fish & Neave) w/e

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